



WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE A. F. OF L., BY INSTRUCTION OF ITS CONVENTION, DIRECTED THE OFFICERS AT HEADQUARTERS TO FURNISH A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER, FREE OF COST, TO ALL OFFICIAL LABOR PUBLICATIONS.

Containing a brief summary of important matters, affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will further the development and progress of the trade union movement.

No. 19.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

HEADQUARTERS

801-809 O ST. N. W., WASHINGTON, D. C.

FRANK MORRISON, SECRETARY

SAMUEL GOMPERS, PRESIDENT

"THIRD DEGREE" CONDEMNED

Committee of United States Senate Report on the Administration of Criminal Law by Federal Officials.

Washington, Aug. 12.—The Senate adopted April 30, 1910, a Senate Resolution No. 186, "to inquire into and report to the Senate facts as to the alleged practice of administering what is known as the third degree ordeal, by officers or employees of the United States, for the purpose of extorting from those charged with crime statements and confessions and also as to any other practices tending to prevent or impair the fair and judicial administration of the criminal law." This committee reported to the Senate Aug. 4, 1911. The committee report states (referring to the police of the District of Columbia) "in one instance a policeman of the Metropolitan police force was proved to have been guilty of gross brutality inflicted on an innocent citizen, in an attempt to arrest another citizen. This officer was afterward convicted and discharged from the force" — In another part of the report it is stated "these examinations and investigations are carried on by all departments of the Government by detective agencies and by the police forces in the different states and municipalities. From the nature of the case there is no witness to it except the police officer conducting the examination and the prisoner himself, and from the nature of the case, convincing evidence of brutality would be difficult to obtain. Whatever may be the facts as to the alleged administration of the so called "third degree" by the police of the states and cities, in the opinion of the committee, the Congress of the United States is lacking in authority to legislate concerning the alleged practice, except when it is practiced by officers or employees of the United States."

The committee report stated that the practice of hurrying accused men from one state to another, without giving them an opportunity to be heard, should be prevented by prohibiting extradition until after the lapse of a certain number of days, or by some other effective plan. The concluding portion of the report is strong in character and is as follows:

"If the court before whom the person charged with crime is brought in reality has no jurisdiction and the person is deprived of any opportunity to test that question, by reason of his hasty transportation to, and custody in, a remote part of the United States, he has, to all intents and purposes, been kidnapped, and such person would seem to have

been deprived of his liberty without due process of law. We therefore recommend to the consideration of Congress, whether Congress cannot constitutionally provide some remedy against the possibility of injustice in the execution of extradition under clause 2 of section 2 of article 4 of the Constitution of the United States, either by providing that the person so charged with crime shall not be removed from the state from which he is brought within a certain number of days, thus affording him an opportunity to test the validity of his arrest and extradition in habeas corpus proceedings, or in some other manner if authority for such other exists."

EIGHT HOUR BILL

H. R. 9061, By Hughes, of New Jersey, Will Be Reported and Placed on Calendar of House.

Washington, Aug. 12.--What is commonly known as the Hughes Eight Hour Bill, limiting the hours of daily service of laborers and mechanics employed upon work done for the United States, or for any territory or for the District of Columbia, and for other purposes, has been considered by the House Committee on Labor, of which Congressman Wilson (coal miner) is chairman. The chairman has been instructed by the committee to draft a favorable report on the bill and report it to the House of Representatives prior to its adjournment. This will place the Eight Hour Bill endorsed by the American Federation of Labor in a strategic position on the calendar of the House, and no doubt will be reached early in the regular session which convenes in December. This bill has been before numerous sessions of Congress, but has always been kept in committee until Congress died. Some amendments were made to the present bill by the committee which strengthened it.

LONDON DOCK STRIKE

London, Aug. 12.--The great dockers' strike in London is in progress with a large number of vessels tied up and docks piled high with merchandise. Rumors are to the effect that the railway trainmen will join the strike. The contest is seriously affecting the food supply of England. London motor busses, owing to the shortage of gasoline, are unable to leave the garages. The Board of Trade has been unable to arrive at satisfactory terms with the striking dock workers. On the Thames 150 vessels are tied up and every market is disorganized. There is great restlessness among the transportation employes, created largely from the tremendous increase in the cost of living, with no corresponding increase in wages. The situation is tense.

NEW MEXICO AND ARIZONA

Washington, Aug. 12.--The Senate has passed the Statehood Bill with amendments requiring that in the New Mexico case a provision be submitted to the people of that territory, whereby the constitution can be more easily amended, and in the case of Arizona, submitted to the people the question of the re-call of judges. If the Senate amendments stand, it will be necessary for the people of these two territories to submit these propositions before the President issues his proclamation declaring statehood, even should he sign the Statehood Bill, which he is not likely to do.

GOVERNMENT BY INJUNCTION

City Council of Des Moines, Ia., Succeeds in Having Restraining Order Issued Against Street Car Men.

Des Moines, Ia., Aug. 12.—The City Council of this city applied for and was granted an injunction restraining the street car men from maintaining a strike against the local traction company. President Gompers made the following comment, which is pertinent and to the point:

"The judge's order is simply the logical result of an illogical premise. It is the natural development of the abuse of the injunction. The whole policy of the species of injunction has been to tie the men of labor to their work and to make ineffectual any effort to secure improvement in the condition of the worker or to effectually protest against the deterioration in the condition of the workers. That has been the purpose and the policy of the judges who have issued the injunction against workmen engaged in a dispute with employers— injunctions which would never have been issued against other citizens, or even against the same workmen were they not engaged in a labor dispute with employers. The purpose and policy is to tie the workmen to their work, or, in other words, to bring them into a condition of slavery."

BAKERY WORKERS' FIGHT

Washington, Aug. 12.—The Bakery and Confectionery Workers' International Union is involved in a serious struggle against what is termed the "bread trust", although there are three large concerns that are in the field. The trust is introducing the most modern labor-saving machinery and have commenced the employment of children. In a letter from the Bakers' International Union, it is stated that members of the Bakers' Union are being displaced and that a general warfare has been commenced against the organization. The fight is now centered in New York City and the bakers are making a splendid fight. The bakers are asking, and their request should be heeded, that no bread, no matter in what part of the country, should be purchased without it bearing the union label. The members of the Bakers' Union have always been excellent fighters and no doubt they will be equal to the present emergency and preserve their organization.

GOT THE NERVE

In the Face of the Positive Injunction Issued by United States Circuit Court, State Federation Exercises its Rights.

San Francisco, Aug. 12.—Judge Van Fleet, of the United States Circuit Court, made permanent the injunction restraining the California State Federation of Labor, the San Francisco Labor Council and the Building Trades Council, from boycotting the goods manufactured by the Loewe Hat Company of Danbury, Conn. The executive council of the State Federation of Labor declares in a resolution that "notwithstanding the injunction in the Loewe Case, the right and duty still remains to refrain from purchasing hats which do not bear the label of the United Hatters of North America, which right and duty they earnestly urge all members and friends to observe in the future, as in the past." This resolution puts it squarely up to the judge and shows conspicuously the fighting proclivities of the California trades unionists.

SECOND CLASS MAIL

Conference Held at Chicago of Labor Editors on July 31 Perfected a Bill and Outlined Plan of Campaign.

Chicago, Aug. 12.—At the conference of labor editors held in this city a permanent committee was appointed to obtain all possible data concerning the difficulties experienced by labor publications entered as second class mail, as well as to oppose any increase in the present rates. The conference approved the Dodd's Bill, so amended as to provide that subscriptions collected by local secretaries, or included in the contributions of members or local unions to the funds of national or international unions, a part of which are applied to defray the cost of publication and distribution of the official magazine, shall be considered as individual subscriptions. The commission which has under consideration the raising of the second class rates is holding sessions in New York and an arrangement was made by the conference to have President Gompers, Matthew Woll and W. J. Adames appear before the commission. President Gompers and his colleagues appeared before the commission in New York on Aug. 10. The editors of nearly all of the official journals were present at the conference and a resolution was also adopted protesting against the outrage committed against the McNamara brothers and urging the international organizations to communicate to their local unions the urgent need for funds with which to conduct the McNamara defense. A resolution criticizing the acts of Judge Wright in his apparent insistence upon inflicting punishment upon the officers of the Federation was also adopted. Arrangements were made for another conference to be held between the officers and legislative committee of the A. F. of L. and other organizations, not affiliated, before the opening of the next session of Congress to arrange for a program to secure the enactment of the bill endorsed.

IN "POSTUM" TOWN

Charles Stelzle Makes an Address in Battle Creek, Mich. and is Recipient of an Ovation.

Battle Creek, Mich. Aug. 12.—This city was enlivened by the presence of Charles Stelzle, who was billed to speak here at the Chautauqua. His subject was "The Elements of Social Unrest", and he took occasion to deliver a red-hot trade union address and "Grape Nuts" Post had a stenographer present who took down the speech. Battle Creek has the worst subsidized press in the entire country and makes only sparing reference to the address, but the tent where the meeting was held was packed with people and the humorous feature of the entire matter is that Stelzle received \$100 for delivering his trade union lecture in "Grape Nuts" home city. Kirby, of the Manufacturers' Association, has been keeping quiet about Stelzle for some time and now probably "Grape Nuts" will take up the gauntlet against him. The next day after the delivery of the address Mr. Stelzle walked about the town, and teamsters, street car men, and all sorts of other workers, as they saw him, grinned and shouted a hearty commendation. No doubt if Stelzle were an organizer, he would be able to organize the town.

At Orlando, Fla., wages in the past two years have increased from \$2.40 to \$3.00 per day, and an eight-hour day established.

At Pekin, Ill., teamsters secured an increase of \$1.50 per week,

NORTHUMBERLAND MINERS

London, Aug. 12.—The Northumberland Miners have voted for a strike by a very large majority to abolish the three shift system, and the Miners' Federation of Great Britain will consider the miners' request for a national stoppage in order to enforce their demands. The outlook appears serious. The attempt to secure a minimum wage of 30 per cent above the standard has failed and the Northumberland Conciliation Board has been terminated.

RAILWAY MEN ACTIVE

New-Castle-on-Tyne, Aug. 12.—The Railway men on the various systems in this country are very much disturbed and a big demonstration was organized in this city of North Eastern Railway Workers, on July 23, to protest against the employment of non-union men, and special complaint was raised against the non-unionists reaping benefits of trade unionism and remaining outside of the ranks of organized labor. The big Hull Railway meeting also agreed that the time had now arrived when every man must be a member of his own union and pledged itself that when the date is fixed no one would work after that date with non-union men.

A GOOD SHOWING

London, Aug. 12.—The United Society of Boiler Makers and Iron and Steel Ship Builders report fewer members on both the sick and superannuation list than the previous month. The total expense of this union for June amounting to nearly \$35,000, an increase of \$4,500 on the month, but as there were five weeks in June as against four in May this is not unusual.

TEXTILE WORKERS OF ENGLAND

London, Aug. 12.—The annual conference of the United Textile Factory Workers Association was held in Bolton. Among the many subjects discussed was Sir C. W. Macara's scheme for the settlement of trade disputes before they reached the stage of a strike or lockout. The 48 hour week for the cotton industry, abolition of lining in weaving sheds, and the compulsory attendance at continuation schools of youthful workers in the mill up to the age of 16 years were also discussed.

INTERNATIONAL MINERS' CONGRESS

London, Aug. 12.—The International Miners' organization has just concluded its session in this city, and very important discussions were had. The German resolution was adopted, and is as follows: "That this Congress is of the opinion that the length of the shift of all the workmen employed in mining industry, on the surface or underground, should be reduced by law to 8 hours, from bank to bank; in very hot and wet places the length of the shifts should be 6 hours at the most." Other discussions were had on pensions for miners; there being resolutions introduced by Austrian, Belgian, French and English delegates, and while there were wide differences in the plans proposed, all three resolutions were adopted.

FRANCO-BRITISH WORKERS

London, Aug. 12.--In order to cement the friendship between English and French working people, a demonstration of Franco-British workers was held in Trafalgar Square recently. It was a demonstration of welcome to the visiting party of French trade unionists and co-operators, and held with the support of the joint board. W. A. Appleton and a number of other prominent speakers in the British labor movement, made addresses, as well as French labor officials and members of the French Chamber of Deputies.

FOREIGN NOTES

A strike of haulage hands has occurred at Newtown collieries of the Clifton & Kearsley Coal Company. The cause of the dispute resulted from the fact that there is no uniform scale of pay for the grade of work done by the younger men.

The strikers in the Paris building trades have resumed work.

The Hull trimmers and tippers of coal gained several points in their dispute, having accepted a new tariff of pay and are at work.

The Boot & Shoe Operatives' Union of Great Britain have succeeded in concluding agreements with four cooperative associations to use their trade union stamp for boots.

The Nottingham, Eng., building trades, after a strike of several weeks, have obtained an advance and returned to work.

Wages have been advanced 3 shillings per week all around at Fairrbairns Sugar Refinery Works at Liverpool.

All the labor of low grade in York milling trade have gained an advance and the employers have practically agreed to recognize the union.

The strike against Silcock & Sons, Liverpool, oil cake manufacturers, has been settled by giving the men the increase of wages demanded.

TO DEBAR WOMEN

Detroit, Aug. 12.--Deputy Labor Commissioner Smith has declared that women will not be employed to work in the Detroit saloons. Commissioner Smith has warned the proprietors of all cafes and saloons where women are employed that after a reasonable time has elapsed to give the employers time to employ male help, if the employers do not, they will be arrested.

TO INVOKE NEW LAW

Oakland, Cal. Aug. 12.--An active campaign against child labor in this country will be inaugurated at once. The last legislature raised the age limit from 14 to 15 years, and requires all permits to be signed by the judge of the juvenile court. An effort will be made to reduce the number of young children employed in the California cotton mills in East Oakland, who are, in many instances, said to be working under the age limit law.

SECURE RAISE IN WAGES

Peru, Ind., Aug. 12.--The members of the Federated Railroad crafts in the Chesapeake and Ohio shops have just secured a new agreement with a two cents per hour increase.

CARPENTERS GET RAISE

Westfield, Mass.—Aug. 12.—The carpenters in this city have secured an increase from 37½ cents to 41 cents per hour and Saturday half holiday for a portion of the year, and after 1912 Saturday half holiday every week.

MEETING OF SECRETARIAT

Budapest, Aug. 12.—The representatives of the Federated Trade Union movements of nineteen different countries are in session in this city. The British General Federation of Trade Unions is represented by W. A. Appleton and James O'Grady; while the American Federation of Labor is represented by James Duncan. At previous gatherings over 6,000,000 of the world's 9,000,000 organized and federated workers have been represented by delegates, while this convention represents close to 7½ million. Of the many interesting proposals at the conference one is brought forward by the American Federation of Labor, calling for the establishment of an International Federation of Trade Union Organizations, to promote international action for securing improvements in the conditions of the workers.

QUARRY WORKERS

Barre, Vt., Aug. 12.—The Quarry Workers' International Union of North America at its recent meeting in Boston, revised its constitution. The International dues have been raised from 50 to 60 cents per month, and the initiation fee from \$1.00 to \$3.00 except in the formation of new or reorganized branches. The death benefit has been raised so that the sum now proposed runs from \$50. to \$125., according to length of membership. There has been added an old age exemption and card benefit, which gives any member arriving at the age of 60 years and who has been in good standing for ten years the privilege of taking out a withdrawal card and paid a benefit of \$50. out of the \$125. funeral claim, and shall be exempt from further payments of dues and assessments, and at his death, his legal heirs are to receive any money remaining, providing he has not violated any of the law or regulations of the organization.

A SETTLEMENT TRIBUNAL

London, Aug. 12.—Sir Charles Macara is promulgating a new scheme for settling labor disputes by giving publicity. The idea is to establish a special department with an advisory board consisting of men who hold the most prominent positions in connection with the great staple industries of the country, both on the side of capital and labor—men who have to deal with the disputes which occur from time to time in these industries. When a deadlock in negotiations is reached, it is suggested that the case be taken before a tribunal capable of giving a judicial decision. Strangely enough, and rather difficult to understand, Sir Charles does not suggest that the tribunal's decision must be accepted by either party to the dispute. This plan is laid in close proximity, at least, to compulsory arbitration. Labor men are not enthusiastic over the plan.

At East Chicago, Ind., teamsters secured an increase of \$5.00 per month.

CARDIFF STRIKE SETTLED

London, Aug. 12.--The seamen's and dockers' strike, which threw out of employment 200,000 workmen, has been settled. The seamen had entered into a compact with the dockers to not return to work until a settlement had been reached for the allies. The seamen obtained a settlement first, pending a settlement with the 30,000 dockers, which was finally reached. Women bottle washers, who also went out in support of the seamen, returned to work with an agreement and an advance in wages. 1,000 laundry girls also secured an agreement granting higher wages and improved conditions. The railway fitters and brewery workers also have come to an agreement with their employers and work has resumed. The terms of the Cardiff provisional settlement are, "that all unions involved shall be officially recognized, except by the Cardiff and Taff-Vale railway companies, who are ready to grant the same recognition to the tippers as is granted by numerous other railways; (2) that no legal proceedings shall be taken by any employer against any workman in respect to cessation of work without notice; (3) that no man, or section of men; shall suffer from boycott or victimization on either side for participation in the present strike; (4) the employers agree to meet the men's representatives to consider the various demands and grievances, with a view to speedy settlement. It is further agreed that during the negotiations looking to a settlement of details, no cessation of work shall take place." It is stated that the settlement is looked upon by labor men as very favorable.

PRINTERS IN CONVENTION

San Francisco, Aug. 12.--The 57th session of the International Typographical Union will open here on Aug. 14, with an address by Mayor P. H. McCarthy, and remarks from representatives of the daily press, the commercial printing branch of the industry, and from representatives of the local Typographical Union. While the union was organized in 1852, this is the 57th convention that has been held, but it is not the 57th annual gathering. In 1894 the organization adopted the biennial plan and no convention was held in 1895 or in 1897, but a return to annual conventions began in 1898 and have been held yearly since. The report of officers show that for the fiscal year ending May 31, 1910, the membership of the International Union earned an average of \$953. per member. For the fiscal year ending May 31, 1911, the membership earned an average per member of \$973. At the end of the fiscal year ending with May, 1911, the average membership was 51,095. The increase in earnings for the last fiscal year reaches \$4,000,000.

CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION

San Francisco, Aug. 12.--A call for the 12th annual convention of the California State Federation of Labor has just been issued. It will be held in Bakersfield, Cal. beginning Monday, Oct. 2, and continuing in session until the business of the convention has been completed.

At Cairo, Ill. painters secured an increase of \$3.00 per week through strike.

OLD AGE PENSION BILLS

Washington, Aug. 12.—Three old age pension bills and one resolution authorizing an investigation to determine some basis upon which to establish an old age pension, have been introduced in the House during the present extra session. The first bill, H. R. 4022, was introduced by Congressman Wilson (miner), of Pennsylvania, on April 11, 1911. House Resolution No. 96 was introduced by Congressman Buchanan (structural iron worker), of Illinois, on April 15, 1911. H. R. 11175 by Congressman Wilson (miner), of Pennsylvania, was introduced June 6, 1911. H. R. 13114, by Congressman Berger, of Wisconsin, was introduced on July 31, 1911. Congressman Wilson also introduced an old age pension bill in the Sixty-first Congress on Dec. 14, 1909.

MUST QUIT CHURCH OR UNIONS

Grand Rapids, Mich.—The Christian Reform denomination, having seventeen churches and 8,000 members, unanimously adopted the report of the committee of fourteen, which demands that all members of the denomination must resign from labor unions. This denomination takes the position that the oath required cannot be taken by a church member, that the burial section of the ritual is not sufficiently religious and that the organizations are not founded on religion. This action by the Christian Reformers affects 700 of the striking furniture workers in this city, 400 men in Chicago, 400 in Paterson, N. J., and about 300 in various other cities. The church organization referred to is inconsequential and its action is only an instance of intolerance.

MOVE HEADQUARTERS

Lafayette, Ind., Aug. 12.—The Retail Clerks International Protective Association has just removed its general offices from Denver, Colo., to this city. It is gratifying to the trade unionists of Lafayette to have the headquarters of this organization located here.

BOSTON BARBERS STRIKE

Boston, Aug. 12.—Barbers in about twenty-five of the shops in this city were called out a few days ago to enforce the signing of a new union agreement that calls for an increase of \$1.00 per week in pay, together with bettered conditions. Approximately 300 employers have signed the agreement and others are expected to do so, within a short time. Nearly seventy are still out, but the organization is making splendid headway.

LABOR BUREAU FOR GEORGIA

Atlanta, Ga., Aug. 12.—The lower house of the state legislature has just passed a bill establishing a state labor bureau. Very little opposition was developed against the bill and it is reported that the bill has a good chance to be passed by the Senate and signed by Gov. Hoke Smith.

At Sacramento, Cal., cement finishers secured increase of 50¢ per day and mixers 25¢ per day.

Des Moines, Ia., Street Railway Company Commences Action to Have Ruling Set Aside.

Des Moines, Ia., Aug. 12.--Charging that Judge Lawrence De Graff violated the state and federal constitutions when he issued an injunction terminating the street car strike here last Sunday, the Des Moines City Railway Company has filed a motion to dissolve the injunction. In this instance it is hoped that the contention of the company will be successful. The action of Judge De Graff in granting the injunction upon the application of the City Council in effect is compulsory arbitration, and the definition of compulsory arbitration is involuntary servitude. The right of any judge, or of any authority to compel men to work against their will is not in accord with the inherent rights granted to citizens of this country under the constitution of the United States. If the action of the court in Des Moines can force the company to reinstate the discharged employe, it can likewise force men to remain in the employment of the Street Railway Company. The press dispatches indicate that the employers everywhere are elated over this recent innovation and abuse of the power of the court and talk is rife of an endeavor to seek to have the courts assume in other places the same position as did Judge De Graff. It is the duty of every labor organization to emphatically and insistently protest against this latest conspicuous abuse of power by the Judge.

GRAND JURY IN COURT

It is Alleged That the Los Angeles Grand Jury is Remaining in Session to Harass the McNamaras.

Los Angeles, Aug. 12.--The attorneys for the McNamaras have made strong allegations against the members of the Grand Jury before Judge Bordwell. Clarence Darrow stated before the court that "this matter (referring to the McNamara case) is before this court and not before the Grand Jury. The Grand Jury is trying no case. It is in session to intimidate, harass and browbeat every person we bring to Los Angeles to assist our cause. Everyone familiar with this Grand Jury knows its persecutions of other people." The basis for this charge by Darrow was the fact that Geo. Behm, uncle of Ortie McManigal, was arrested on a bench warrant on a citation to show why he should not answer certain questions put to him by the Grand Jury or be adjudged guilty of contempt of court.

MACHINISTS WINNING

New York, Aug. 12.--The strike of the machinists in this city to establish the eight-hour day is being successful. Aside from the big printing press plant of Hoe & Co., which has made an amicable agreement, another large firm employing about 300 machinists has also made a settlement. Every indication points to a complete victory for the machinists. The eight-hour day has been granted on the plan of shortening the hours gradually, it requiring something over a year to reach the ultimate eight-hour working day, but no reduction in wages follows the reduction in hours.

CLERKS WIN STRIKE

Jasonville, Ind., Aug. 12.--The Retail Clerks' Association of this city, after a vigorous strike, have secured an agreement. The clerks all over the country are becoming militant. May they continue.